CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a host window, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a description of a position of the content pane within a host window; and

(b) utilizing a diagram to indicate the position and the orientation of the content pane within the host window.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the utilizing step (b) further includes the step of (b1) utilizing the diagram to indicate the orientation of the content pane within the host window.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of (c) docking the content pane in accordance with the description.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the diagram is a thumbnail diagram which illustrates how the content pane will be docked in the host window.

5. The method of claim 4 in which the content pane within the thumbnail diagram that is to be docked is identified by a particular color.

1   6.   The method of claim 5 in which a pointing device is dragged to indicate the

2   thumbnail diagram.

1   7.   The method of claim 6 in which, when the content pane is undockable, an

2   outline of the content pane is shown.

1   8.   A system for providing feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a

2   host window, the system comprising:

3   a description providing a position of the content pane within a host window; and

4   a diagram utilized to indicate the position of the content pane within the host window.

1   9.   The system of claim 8 wherein the utilizing step means further includes means

2   for utilizing the diagram to indicate the orientation of the content pane within the host window.

1   10.   The system of claim 8 comprising a docking of the content pane in accordance

2   with the description.

1   11.   The system of claim 10 wherein the diagram is a thumbnail diagram which

2   illustrates how the content pane will be docked in the host window.

1   12.   The system of claim 11 in which the content pane within the thumbnail diagram

2   that is to be docked is identified by a particular color.

1   13.   The system of claim 12 in which a pointing device is dragged to indicate the

2   thumbnail diagram.

1   14.   The system of claim 13 in which when the content pane is undockable an

2   outline of the content pane is shown.

1   15.   A computer readable medium containing program instructions for providing

2   feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a host window, the program instructions

3   comprising the steps for:

4   (a)   providing a description of a position of the content pane within a host window;

5   and

6   (b)   utilizing a diagram to indicate the position of the content pane within the host

7   window.

1   16.   The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the utilizing step (b)

2   further includes the step of (b1) utilizing the diagram to indicate the orientation of the content

3   pane within the host window.

1   17.   The computer readable medium of claim 15 which includes program

2   instructions for (c) docking the content pane in accordance with the description.

1   18.   The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein the diagram is a thumbnail

2   diagram which illustrates the content pane along with at least one other content pane and at

3 least one splitter bar within the host window.

1   19. The computer readable medium of claim 18 in which the content pane within

2 the thumbnail diagram that is to be docked is identified by a particular color.

1   20. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which a pointing device is

2 dragged to indicate the thumbnail diagram.

1   21. The computer readable medium of claim 20 in which when the content pane is

2 undockable an outline of the content pane is shown.

1   22. A method for providing feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a

2 host window, the method comprising the steps of:

3   (a) providing a description of a position of the content pane within a host window;

4 and

5   (b) utilizing a diagram to indicate the position of the content pane within the host

6 window, wherein the diagram is a thumbnail diagram which illustrates how the content pane

7 will be docked in the host window, the content pane being identified by a particular color; and

8   (c) docking the content pane in accordance with the description.

1   23. A system for providing feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a

2 host window, the system comprising:

3   a description providing a position of the content pane within a host window; and

4   a diagram utilized to indicate the position of the content pane within the host window,

5   wherein the diagram is a thumbnail diagram which illustrates how the content pane will be

6   docked in the host window, the content pane being identified by a particular color; and

7   the content pane docked in accordance with the description.

1   24.   A computer readable medium containing program instructions for providing

2   feedback concerning a content pane to be docked in a host window, the method comprising the

3   steps of:

4   (a)   providing a description of a position of the content pane within a host window;

5   and

6   (b)   utilizing a diagram to indicate the position of the content pane within the host

7   window, wherein the diagram is a thumbnail diagram which illustrates how the content pane

8   will be docked in the host window, the content pane being identified by a particular color; and

9   (c)   docking the content pane in accordance with the description.